

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computerized system, comprising:
  - at least one data store of at least one data store type configured to store at least one data object;
  - an object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface comprising:
    - a query component; and
    - a provider interface comprising a query component behavior specification specifying a query behavior with a query component parameter; and
    - for each type of data store, a provider plug-in to the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface, and each provider plug-in comprises at least one provider component configured with a query behavior conforming to the query component behavior specification of the provider interface.
2. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein:
  - the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface further comprises a provider object interface comprising:
    - a get value component behavior specification specifying a get value behavior with a data object attribute index parameter;
    - a get object component behavior specification specifying a get object behavior with a data object attribute index parameter; and
    - a get list component behavior specification specifying a get list behavior with a data object attribute index parameter; and

each provider plug-in further comprises at least one provider object component, and each provider object component is configured with:

    a get value behavior conforming with the get value component behavior specification of the provider object interface;

    a get object behavior conforming with the get object component behavior specification of the provider object interface;

    a get list behavior conforming with the get list component behavior specification of the provider object interface; and

    an index of attributes of at least one of said at least one data object.

3. The computerized system of claim 2, wherein the provider object interface further comprises:

    a set value component behavior specification specifying a set value behavior with a data object attribute index parameter;

    a set null value component behavior specification specifying a set null value behavior with a data object attribute index parameter;

    a null value test component behavior specification specifying a null value test behavior with a data object attribute index parameter; and

    a populated value test component behavior specification specifying a populated value test behavior with a data object attribute index parameter.

4. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein:

the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface further comprises at least one data store object component; and the provider interface further comprises:

    a connect component behavior specification specifying a connect behavior;

    a disconnect component behavior specification specifying a disconnect behavior; and

    a commit component behavior specification specifying a commit behavior with a data store object component parameter.

5. The computerized system of claim 4, wherein:  
each data store object component comprises a data store operation attribute;

each provider component is further configured with a commit behavior conforming to the commit component behavior specification of the provider interface; and

the data store operation attribute of the data store object component parameter of the commit behavior of the provider component indicates a data store operation to occur during the commit.

6. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface further comprises:

    for each data object stored in each data store, a data store object component; and

    a data store component configured to provide a subset of data store object components in response to the query component.

7. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the query component is configured with:

an add expression behavior having:

at least one query term parameter; and

a query operator parameter; and

an add conjunction behavior having a query conjunction parameter.

8. The computerized system of claim 7, wherein the add expression behavior of the query component further has a query component parameter.

9. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein:

each data object stored in said at least one data store comprises at least one data object attribute;

the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface further comprises a data store object component corresponding to each data object stored in each data store; and

each data store object component comprises a field list attribute comprising a field specification for at least one data object attribute of the data object corresponding to the data store object component, the field specification comprising a defer property specifying that retrieval of the data object attribute is deferrable.

10. The computerized system of claim 9, wherein:

said at least one data object attribute comprises a data object attribute referencing a list of data objects stored in said at least one data store; and

the field specification for the data object attribute referencing the list of data objects further comprises a schema path property specifying, at least:

a type of data object in the list of data objects;

a first attribute of each data object in the list of data objects;

a second attribute of the data object corresponding to the data store object component containing the field specification; and

a relationship between the first attribute and the second attribute.

11. The computerized system of claim 10, wherein the schema path property specifies:

more than one type of data object; and

at least one relationship between attributes of each data object.

12. The computerized system of claim 9, further comprising a data store object source code generator configured to generate object-oriented programming language source code for each data store object component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface.

13. A computer-readable medium having thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

instantiating a first query component of an object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface, each query component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface having an add expression behavior, the add expression behavior having:

at least one query term parameter; and  
a query operator parameter;  
adding a query expression to the first query component  
with the add expression behavior of the first query component;  
and

providing the first query component to a data store  
component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store  
interface.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13; wherein:  
each query component further has:

a query conjunction behavior;  
a begin group behavior; and  
an end group behavior; and

the method further comprises:

adding a query conjunction to the first query  
component with the add conjunction behavior of the first query  
component;

adding a begin group to the first query component  
with the begin group behavior of the first query component; and

adding an end group to the first query component with  
the end group behavior of the first query component.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein:  
each query component specifies a subset of enterprise data  
objects;

each query component further has:

a get extensible markup language (XML) behavior; and  
a set from extensible markup language (XML) behavior;  
and

the method further comprises obtaining an extensible markup language (XML) representation of the subset of enterprise data objects specified by the first query component with the get extensible markup language (XML) behavior of the first query component.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein:  
the method further comprises instantiating a second query component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface; and

the query expression added to the first query component comprises the second query component.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein:  
each query component specifies a subset of enterprise data objects; and

the query expression added to the first query component specifies a set of values, the set of values comprising values of a specified attribute of the subset of enterprise data objects specified by the second query component.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein:  
one of a set of valid query operators is provided as the query operator parameter of the add expression behavior of each query component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface; and

the set of valid query operators comprises:

an attribute contains (Contains) query operator that tests if a data object attribute specified by a first query term contains a value specified by a second query term;

a value within (Within) query operator that tests if a value specified by the first query term is within a set of values specified by at least one subsequent query term;

a Has query operator that tests if a data object specified by the first query term has at least one of a set of data objects specified by said at least one subsequent query term; and

a null test (IsNull) query operator that tests if the data object attribute specified by the first query term has a null value.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein:

each query component specifies a subset of enterprise data objects; and

the method further comprises receiving a set of data store object components of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface from the data store component as a result of providing the first query component to the data store component, each data store object component in the set of data store object components corresponding to an enterprise data object in the subset of enterprise data objects specified by the first query component.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein each data store object component comprises a field list attribute comprising a field specification for at least one data object attribute of the data object corresponding to the data store object component, the field specification comprising a defer property specifying that retrieval of the data object attribute is deferrable.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein:  
said at least one data object attribute comprises a data  
object attribute referencing a list of data objects stored in  
at least one data store; and  
the field specification for the data object attribute  
referencing the list of data objects further comprises a schema  
path property specifying, at least:  
a type of data object in the list of data objects;  
a first attribute of each data object in the list of  
data objects;  
a second attribute of the data object corresponding  
to the data store object component containing the field  
specification; and  
a relationship between the first attribute and the  
second attribute.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the  
schema path property specifies:  
more than one type of data object; and  
at least one relationship between attributes of each data  
object.

23. A computerized system, comprising:  
at least one data store of at least one data store type,  
each data store capable of storing at least one data object;  
an object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface  
comprising at least one data store object component  
corresponding to at least one of said at least one data object  
stored in said at least one data store;  
a data store object design graphical user interface  
configured to enable building of a graphical representation of

each data object corresponding to data store object components of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface; and a data store object source code generator capable of generating object-oriented programming language source code for each data store object component of the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface.

24. The computerized system of claim 23, further comprising an extensible markup language (XML) data store object definition generator configured to generate an extensible markup language (XML) data store object definition from the graphical representation in accordance with an extensible markup language (XML) data store object definition schema.

25. The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the data store object source code generator generates object-oriented programming language source code for each data store object component corresponding to the extensible markup language (XML) data store object definition generated from the graphical representation.

26. The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the extensible markup language (XML) data store object definition comprises at least one data store object definition element containing at least one data store object attribute definition element, and each data store object attribute definition element includes a defer property specifying that retrieval of the data object attribute is deferrable.

27. The computerized system of claim 26, wherein:

at least one of said at least one data store object attribute definition element defines a data object attribute referencing a list of data objects stored in said at least one data store; and

each data store object attribute definition element that defines the data object attribute referencing the list of data objects further includes a schema path property specifying, at least:

a type of data object in the list of data objects;

a first attribute of each data object in the list of data objects;

a second attribute of the data object corresponding to the data store object definition element containing the data store object attribute definition element; and

a relationship between the first attribute and the second attribute.

28. The computerized system of claim 27, wherein the schema path property specifies:

more than one type of data object; and

at least one relationship between attributes of each data object.

29. The computerized system of claim 23:

wherein the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface further comprises:

a query component; and

a provider interface comprising a query component behavior specification specifying a query behavior with a query component parameter; and

further comprising, for each type of data store, a provider plug-in to the object-oriented heterogeneous data store interface, each provider plug-in comprising at least one provider component configured with a query behavior conforming to the query component behavior specification of the provider interface.

30. The computerized system of claim 29, further comprising, for at least one provider plug-in, a corresponding data store object source code generator plug-in capable of generating data objects for the type of data store associated with the provider plug-in.

31. The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the graphical representation of each data object comprises a security policy designation.